1 Kings - Commentaries by Henry Allan Ironside

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, March 1

Article from https://bibletruthpublishers.com/bible-truth-study-bible/btsb

“And upon the top of the pillars was lily work; so was the work of the pillars finished” — 1 Kings 7:22.

EVERYTHING in the temple, as in the tabernacle before it, spoke of Christ. “In His sanctuary every whit of it uttereth His glory” (Psa. 29:9, literal rendering) The great pillars Jachim (“He shall establish”) and Boaz (“In Him is strength”) speak of His power and might. The lily work at the top speaks of the lowliness and beauty of His character. To those who overcome He says, “I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God” (Rev. 3:12). His pillars must be strong in the Lord and the power of His might, but there must also be the beauty of holiness, the lowly grace which was seen in all perfection in Him. No experience is valueless which tends to reproduce Christ in us. No suffering is too great if it result in that lily-work which is so precious in the eyes of God. The lovely flowers of His grace give beauty to the sturdy pillar that tells of His power.

—Henrietta Runyon Wintrey.

Daily Sacrifice, February 20

“And he made a molten sea, ten cubits from the one brim to the other: it was round all about, and his height was five cubits: and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about”—1 Kings 7:23

BEFORE the sanctuary of old in the court of the tabernacle there was the laver, and in that of the temple the brazen sea. These were for the cleansing of the priests, and they typified the water of the Word by which we who believe are sanctified and cleansed today that we may be fitted for fellowship with God and for service to men.

John saw in heaven a sea of glass. It is the same Word, which abides eternally but will no longer be needed for our purification up there, So we see the saints of God standing on the sea of glass. The unchanging Word is the solid foundation upon which they will be forever established. As we remain here on earth in the place of testimony we need to be washed by the Word continually that we may be freed from the defilements which we contact on every hand. In yonder land there shall be nothing to cause us to need the cleansing Word, but we shall stand upon its sure testimonies forever. Till we reach that scene we need cleansing day by day.

—Scottlah Psalter.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, February 29

“God said, Ask what I shall give thee” —1 Kings 3:5.

DOES He not know far better than we do what is good for us? Is it not, then, needless to come to Him with our requests? He who so reasons overlooks the fact that it is God Himself who bids us ask and who tells us, “Ye have not because ye ask not.” It is clear from this scripture that He has blessings prepared for us which He loves to give, but which will be withheld until we request them. He would have us realize that we have to do with a living God. When we go to Him in prayer and ask Him to give what is on our hearts—of which others know nothing—and then He opens His hand and gives so freely and so generously, we have a positive demonstration that prayer is more than a formal religious exercise. We have reached the ear of God and He has answered in His love and wisdom.

—E. E. Rexford.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, March 6

“And Micaiah said, As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me that will I speak”—1 Kings 22:14.

IT was nobly said. Micaiah’s faithfulness stands out in vivid contrast to good king Jehoshaphat’s temporizing with evil by his association with ungodly Ahab. When the prophet was urged to prophesy smooth things so as to curry favor with the wicked king of Israel he refused to compromise and to play fast and loose with God’s truth. He was under orders as a soldier of the Lord and he felt he could only obey his Captain. As a steward of a divine revelation he must be found faithful, He got a prison for his pains, but Micaiah in jail made a greater figure in the sight of God than Jehoshaphat in the robes of Ahab!

—Barbara Cornet Ryberg.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, March 5

“And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone” — 1 Kings 20:40.

THE parable of the missing man which the unnamed son of the prophet used in seeking to stir up the slothful spirit of the king of Israel has a similar lesson for us. We are exhorted to redeem the time, literally to buy up opportunities of testimony for witnessing for Christ; to be as alert for witnessing to the lost as bargain-hunters are to purchase goods to advantage. Yet how often we neglect to use the circumstances which are put in our way, where we may say a word for our Lord and endeavor to point the lost to Him. Our intentions are good, but we become so occupied with other matters, many of them trifling in the extreme, and ere we realize it, the man to whom we should have spoken is beyond our reach.

—H. Wilson.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, March 4

“He requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers... And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, thrown down Thine altars, and slain Thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away” — 1 Kings 19:4,10.

IT took real courage—the courage borne of the conviction that he was God’s own messenger—for this sturdy Tishbite to rebuke so powerful and wicked a ruler as Ahab, and even more to declare beforehand what nature saw no evidence of, but which faith counted on God to perform (1 Kings 18:41). Yet we see this bold man quail before the wrath of a proud, haughty, vixen-like Jezebel (1 Kings 19:2, 3), whose threatening words so disturbed him that he preferred death to further conflict (1 Kings 19:4). In this we may see how truly he was a man of like passions with ourselves: not some wonderful, mysterious, superhuman being, but a very human person indeed, whom God had taken up in grace and commissioned for a great work. His greatest weakness was in connection with his outstanding testimony: he was inclined to think of himself as almost Jehovah’s sole representative on earth. When he said, “I only, am left (1 Kings 19:14), God rebuked him by telling of seven thousand hidden ones in Israel who had not bowed the knee to Baal (ch. 19:18). We need to learn the same lesson. However faithful or devoted we may imagine ourselves to be, God has many more than ourselves who are true to His Word and faithful in their stand against apostasy.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, March 3

“And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel: but thou, and thy father’s house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim.
—1 Kings 18:17, 18.

HE who has the testimony of his own conscience that he is walking in accordance with the revealed will of God will be courageous in the hour of danger, when the enemies of the truth oppose with violence or deceitful pretense. There is a mere fleshly bravado which may exist where one is playing fast and loose with that which is of God. But holy boldness is another thing altogether and is the accompaniment of genuine piety and true loyalty to the Word of the Lord. It is this that we see exemplified in the life of Elijah, and in this we may well seek grace to emulate the devoted man of God who came to call the people back to the law they had forgotten.

—St. Patrick of Ireland.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, March 2

“And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men’s counsel that they gave him; and spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but 1 will chastise you with scorpions”—1 Kings 12:13,14.

ONE of Solomon’s own proverbs, if taken to heart by his son, might have saved the entire situation: “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger” (Prov. 15:1). Another proverb might have given added guidance: “Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom” (Prov. 13:10). Rehoboam lost the greater part of his kingdom because of refusing the good advice of the elders and following the foolish counsel of the young men. Puffed up with pride, he met the reasonable demands of the people with “grievous words,” instead of conciliatory speech, which might have bound their hearts to him and saved from much strife and bitterness. It is a lesson that we are all very slow to learn. We so readily forget that “the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God” (James 1:20). Many family, business, church, and national troubles might be avoided were this lesson taken to heart.

—Duncan McNeil.

Daily Sacrifice, February 21

“For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father..... Wherefore the Lord said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant”—1 Kings 11:4,11.

WHENEVER and wherever tested by God, man has proved himself to be a failure. Of all who had gone before him none attained to the wisdom of Solomon; yet even he sinned grievously by forgetting the commandments of the Lord, and so brought grief and ruin at last upon Israel. Under his reign they reached the highest pinnacle of worldly glory. Because of sin, both his and theirs, they became at last an outcast people, driven from their land and wandering in pain and wretchedness among the Gentiles. Sin always brings disaster. May we learn from their sad history the folly of turning away from the paths of righteousness.

—John White Chadwick.

clickbible.org